

Dec 13, 2011 - We just ended up 2011 training after another 1000 arrow challenge. This challenge encourages the athletes to give their maximum effort in their own test of determination and strength. This event marks the final training for the Resident Athletes at Chula Vista, before the fall holidays.

The 1000 arrow challenge is typically shot up close at 5-10m; however, some archers prefer to shoot some at distance because it gives them a better feeling. Most archers will begin shooting between 4am and 6am in order to complete the challenge by the afternoon. Average arrows per end vary between 20-30 arrows and the average time to finish is around 11 hours. The time record was set in 2010 by Tyler Schardt who completed his 1000th arrow after an amazing 5 hours of shooting and the second fastest time and fastest time by a female archer, Heather Koehl, was clocked at 5 hours and 50 minutes.

This year we had 8 archers participate and Peter Kelchner was the first archer finished this year, however, no new time records were set.

For the past couple of years, the Resident Athletes have focused their Thousand Arrow Challenge on something specific. Last year, they used the Challenge to raise money for a children's charity. This year, as many Americans are still missing family members who are serving overseas in the Armed Forces, the Resident Athletes are shooting their Thousand Arrow Challenge to benefit "Waves of Appreciation," a program of the United Service Organizations (USO).

Waves of Appreciation is a program begun by Pepperdine University Alumni to ensure that active troops travelling through the San Diego Airport during the holidays have food and beverages available to them. Volunteers with Waves of Appreciation will gather to supply, pack and distribute bags with snacks, water and other items that make the soldiers' journeys more comfortable.

The Resident Athletes were joined in their challenge this year by members of the Roadrunner Archery Club, who hosted a Shoot-A-Thon for their members, encouraging them to shoot up to 300 arrows each. Together, the Resident Athletes and the members of the Roadrunner Archery Club raised \$2,300 for Waves of Appreciation. One hundred percent of all donations collected will go to the USO to support Waves of Appreciation.